

Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims will replace the previous version, and the listing of claims;

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) A metal gasket having a hole to be sealed, comprising:

a first metal base plate having a one first main bead projecting outwardly therefrom around the hole, a first outer sub-bead section smaller than the first main bead and provided outside the first main bead, and a first inner sub-bead section smaller than the first main bead and provided inside the first main bead so that the one first main bead is only provided between the first outer and inner sub-bead sections, said first outer and inner sub-bead sections projecting ~~outwardly~~ in a same direction ~~opposite to~~ as the first main bead, and

a second metal base plate laminated with the first metal base plate and having a one second main bead projecting outwardly therefrom around the hole in a direction opposite to the one first main bead, a second outer sub-bead section smaller than the second main bead and provided outside the second main bead, and a second inner sub-bead section smaller than the second main bead and provided inside the second main bead so that the one second main bead is only provided between the second outer and inner sub-bead sections, said second outer and inner sub-bead sections abutting at least partly against the first outer and inner sub-bead sections respectively in the radial direction for sealing ~~second outer and inner sub-bead sections projecting outwardly in a direction opposite to the second main bead, a distance between the second outer and inner sub-bead sections being greater than that between the first outer and inner sub-bead sections so that when the first and second metal base plates are assembled, the second outer and~~

~~inner sub-bead sections face the first outer and inner sub-bead sections and entirely sandwich the first outer and inner sub-bead sections therebetween to substantially abut against each other at side peripheries thereof.~~

2-5. (cancelled)

6. (previously presented) A metal gasket according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and second outer sub-bead sections is formed intermittently in a circumferential direction.

7-13. (cancelled)

14. (previously presented) A metal gasket according to claim 1, wherein said second main bead has a size less than that of the first main bead so that when the gasket is compressed, the second outer and inner sub-bead sections restrict lateral movements of the first outer and inner sub-bead sections.

15. (cancelled)

16. (currently amended, withdrawn) A metal gasket having a hole to be sealed, comprising:

a first metal base plate having a one first half bead around the hole, and a first outer sub-bead section projecting in a direction opposite to the first half bead, said first outer sub-bead section being smaller than the first half bead and provided outside the first half bead, and

a second metal base plate laminated with the first metal base plate and including a one second half bead formed around the hole to project in a direction opposite to the first half bead ~~and having a size less than that of the first half bead~~, and a second

outer sub-bead section smaller than the second half bead and provided outside the second half bead, said second outer sub-bead section projecting in a direction opposite to the second half bead so that when the first and second metal base plates are assembled, the second outer sub-bead section faces an outer surface of the first outer sub-bead section and is entirely located outside the first outer sub-bead section to abut against thereto in a radial direction of the hole for restricting lateral movement of the first outer sub-bead section.

17-18. (cancelled)

19. (previously presented) A metal gasket according to claim 1, wherein each of said first and second outer and inner sub-bead sections has a trapezoidal shape.

20. (previously presented) A metal gasket according to claim 1, wherein said first and second metal base plates are different in thickness.

21. (previously presented, withdrawn) A metal gasket according to claim 16, wherein said first and second outer sub-bead sections and said first and second half beads are formed only around the hole for sealing the same.

22. (previously presented, withdrawn) A metal gasket according to claim 21, wherein each of said first and second outer sub-bead sections has a trapezoidal shape.

23. (previously presented, withdrawn) A metal gasket according to claim 16, wherein said first and second metal base plates are different in thickness.